

The ULTIMATE #4
Kenny Luck

ULTIMATE(adj): the best imaginable of it kind

“And when I brought you into a fruitful land to enjoy its bounty and goodness, you defiled my land and corrupted the possession I had promised you. The priests did not ask, ‘Where is the LORD?’ Those who taught my word ignored me, the rulers turned against me, and the prophets spoke in the name of Baal, wasting their time on worthless idols. Therefore, I will bring my case against you,” says the LORD. “I will even bring charges against your children’s children in the years to come. Go west and look in the land of Cyprus; go east and search through the land of Kedar. Has anyone ever heard of anything as strange as this? Has any nation ever traded its gods for new ones, even though they are not gods at all? Yet my people have exchanged their glorious God for worthless idols! The heavens are shocked at such a thing and shrink back in horror and dismay,” says the LORD. “For my people have done two evil things: They have abandoned me—the fountain of living water. And they have dug for themselves cracked cisterns that can hold no water at all!” Jeremiah 2:7-14

THE TRANSITION FROM THE ULTIMATE TO THE IMMEDIATE INVOLVES:

- SLIDING FROM _____.
- SLIDING FROM _____.
- SLIDING FROM _____.
- SLIDING FROM _____.
- SLIDING FROM _____.
- SLIDING FROM _____.

“I was the one who planted you, choosing a vine of the purest stock—the very best. How did you grow into this corrupt wild vine?” Jeremiah 2:21

COMMON DENOMINATOR FOR ALL ULTIMATE MEN : AN “ULTIMATE” DISCIPLINE

DISCIPLINE (noun): control gained by enforcing a prescribed pattern of thinking and behaving; training that corrects, molds, or perfects the mental, physical, or spiritual faculties or moral character

“Don’t you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.” 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 NLT

Disciplined THINKING as God’s man says...

- IF I VALUE _____.
- I ACCEPT _____.
- I TRAIN _____.
- I FEAR _____.

“Stay clear of silly stories that get dressed up as religion. Exercise daily in God—no spiritual flabbiness, please! Workouts in the gymnasium are useful, but a disciplined life in God is far more so, making you fit both today and forever. You can count on this. Take it to heart. This is why we’ve thrown ourselves into this venture so totally. We’re banking on the living God, Savior of all men and women, especially believers. Get the word out. Teach all these things.

And don't let anyone put you down because you're young. Teach believers with your life: by word, by demeanor, by love, by faith, by integrity. Stay at your post reading Scripture, giving counsel, teaching. And that special gift of ministry you were given when the leaders of the church laid hands on you and prayed—keep that dusted off and in use.” 1 Timothy 4:7-14 MSG

Disciplined LIVING as God's man involves...

- WELL DEFINED** _____ . (stay clear)
- WELL DEFINED** _____ . (daily...disciplined in God)
- WELL DEFINED** _____ . (Living God, Savior)
- WELL DEFINED** _____ . (get the word out/teach)
- WELL DEFINED** _____ . (don't let anyone)
- WELL DEFINED** _____ . (stay reading Scripture)
- WELL DEFINED** _____ . (ministry you were given)

“Cultivate these things. Immerse yourself in them. The people will all see you mature right before their eyes! Keep a firm grasp on both your character and your teaching. Don't be diverted. Just keep at it. Both you and those who hear you will experience salvation.” 1 Timothy 4:15-16 MSG

PICK YOUR PAIN...BECAUSE YOU CANNOT AVOID IT

“Since we respected our earthly fathers who disciplined us, shouldn't we submit even more to the discipline of the Father of our spirits, and live forever? For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God's discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it's painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way. So take a new grip with your tired hands and strengthen your weak knees. Mark out a straight path for your feet so that those who are weak and lame will not fall but become strong.”

Hebrews 12:9-13 NLT

THE PAIN OF PRESENT _____ .

THE PAIN OF FUTURE _____ .

FOR DISCUSSION:

WHEN DO YOU FIND YOURSELF SLIDING INTO THINKING AND LIVING WHEN IT COMES TO GOD?

IN WHAT AREAS OF LIFE IS IT EASY FOR MEN TO “LEASE” THEIR FAITH VERSUS OWN IT?

CAN YOU THINK OF A TIME IN YOUR LIFE WHEN YOU WERE WILLING TO SACRIFICE TEMPORARY DISCOMFORT FOR A FUTURE GAIN?

WHERE DOES YOUR LIFE NEED SOME BETTER “DEFINITION”? (see the WELL DEFINED section)

HOW DO YOU FEEL “AFTERWARD” WHEN YOU HAVE DISCIPLINED YOURSELF AND BATTLED OTHER PRESSURES TO SEE GOD'S PURPOSES ADVANCED IN YOUR LIFE?

WHAT “PAIN” OF DISCIPLINE WILL BE THE FOCUS SOME NEW CHOICES IN THE DAYS TO COME?